



SHARPE JAMES

MAYOR

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

07102

July 2, 1996

The Hon. Ronald L. Rice
West Ward Council Member
920 Broad Street - Room 304
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Council Member Rice:

We must act rather quickly in order to stop other cities from taking our franchise in minor league baseball which begins in 1997. This is why I am making this final appeal to you to join with Essex County government to build a state-of-the-art baseball/soccer stadium in Newark.

Fortunately, we have been helped by Mayor Whelan of Atlantic City, who has been supporting and lobbying for a City of Newark team entry. Also, you have heard from East Ward Councilman Henry Martinez who has been a courageous leader in explaining the importance of this worthy use of leisure and crime reduction project. As Council Member Martinez explained to the residents of the East Ward at the last municipal council meeting, the City of Newark will be increasing our recreational and cultural activities for the young and old, not decreasing said activities.

What we have now is an old decaying stadium and a less than state-of-the-art play area. With your support, we will have a brand new baseball, soccer and recreational facility for citizens and visitors to enjoy and partake in various wholesome, leisure time activities.

We will never be able to afford a police officer on every street corner and in every classroom and a zero response time. However, we can duplicate the success of Cleveland, Seattle, Indianapolis, Baltimore and Atlanta in providing alternatives to a life of crime. Cleveland once derogatorily referred to as "The Mistake by the Lake," is now the "New American City," with its new stadiums and a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Furthermore, can you imagine where Newark would be today if prior leadership had the vision and courage to accept the recommendations to build Giant Stadium and the Continental Arena in Newark? Unfortunately, leadership was lacking and our city and citizens still suffer today from poor decision making. Let us not repeat the mistakes of the past. Instead, let us become visionaries who are looking out for what's best for the City of Newark.

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I, therefore, call upon your leadership, vision and belief in a better Newark to act quickly on this agreement with the County of Essex in building a quality, state-of-the-art recreational/sports complex in our city and preserve our entry into minor league baseball. Thank you for your consideration of a matter that can be a "win-win" situation for Newark!

Sincerely yours,

Sharpe James
Mayor

cc: Honorable Henry Martinez, East Ward Council Member
Glenn Grant, Business Administrator

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